By way of example only and not limitation, rings formed through the diaphyseal region of a fibula or humerus may be used for interbody fusion in the cervical spine, while a tibial ring may be used in the thoracic or lumbar spine. Finally, the implants of the present invention may be formed from a composite material comprising cortical bone (Fig. 8).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 130-147 without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter and amend claims 1, 43, 85, and 112 (with changes as shown in the attachment) to read as follows:

1. (Twice amended) An interbody spinal implant made of cortical bone for insertion at least in part into an implantation space formed across the height of a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine and into at least a portion of the endplates of the vertebral bodies, the implantation space having a front wall, said implant comprising:

a body manufactured from a bone ring obtained from a major long bone of a human, said body having a perimeter, a leading end for insertion first into the disc space, a trailing end opposite said leading end, and opposite sides, said body having a length along a mid-longitudinal axis of said implant, said leading end having a generally straight portion along a portion of the perimeter of said body adapted to abut the front wall of the implantation space when said implant is installed into the implantation space, said trailing end being at least in part curved along a middle portion of said trailing end;

opposite upper and lower surfaces adapted to be placed in contact with and to support the adjacent vertebral bodies, said upper and lower surfaces being non-arcuate;

said opposite sides connecting said upper and lower surfaces and said leading and trailing ends; and

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an opening passing through said upper and lower surfaces for permitting for the growth of bone from adjacent vertebral body to adjacent vertebral body through said implant.

43. (Twice amended) An interbody spinal implant made of a bone composite material for insertion at least in part into an implantation space formed across the height of a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine and into at least a portion of the endplates of the vertebral bodies, the implantation space having a front wall, said implant comprising:

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a body manufactured from a bone composite material, said body having a perimeter, a leading end for insertion first into the disc space, a trailing end opposite said leading end, and opposite sides, said body having a length along a mid-longitudinal axis of said implant, said leading end having a generally straight portion along a portion of the perimeter of said body adapted to abut the front wall of the implantation space when said implant is installed into the implantation space, said trailing end being at least in part curved along a middle portion of said trailing end;

opposite upper and lower surfaces adapted to be placed in contact with and to support the adjacent vertebral bodies, said upper and lower surfaces being non-arcuate;

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said opposite sides connecting said upper and lower surfaces and said leading and trailing ends; and

an opening passing through said upper and lower surfaces for permitting for the growth of bone from adjacent vertebral body to adjacent vertebral body through said implant.

85. (Twice amended) An interbody spinal implant made of cortical bone for insertion at least in part into an implantation space formed across the height of a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine and into at least a portion of the endplates of the vertebral bodies, the implantation space having a front wall, said implant comprising:

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a body manufactured from a bone ring obtained from a major long bone of a human, said body having a perimeter, a leading end for insertion first into the disc space, a trailing end opposite said leading end, and opposite sides therebetween, said body having a length along a mid-longitudinal axis of said implant, said leading end having a generally straight portion along a part of the perimeter of said body adapted to abut the front wall of the implantation space when said implant is installed into the implantation space, said trailing end being at least in part curved along a middle portion of said trailing end;